

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 28, No. 11 - Friday, May 28, 2004 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

'Voyage to Mars' debuts at Brooks space camps

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The simulated mission "Voyage To Mars," debuting this summer at Brooks, is expected to pique student interest in space exploration while also dispelling the notion that little green men exist on the so-called "Red Planet."

The journey to Earth's most intriguing planetary neighbor is part of the Brooks Aerospace Foundation's third annual series of space camps at the Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio. Two dozen students who will enter the fifth, sixth or seventh grade this fall are expected to participate in Camp Challenger from June 21-25, July 12-16 and July 26-30.

"This is a perfect time to do this because of President Bush's announcement in January of a manned mission to Mars," said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director. The President's plan for a manned Martian expedition sometime after the year 2020, coupled with recent success by the Mars robotic probes "Spirit" and "Opportunity," have generated sufficient interest among lo-

cal students to launch the newest Challenger Center simulation.

"Since we opened the (Challenger) center in September 2000, 41,000 San Antonio area children have flown the 'Rendezvous with a Comet' scenario," said Ms. Klein. She explained that this popular simulated space mission was based on one of the space shuttle Challenger's research activities.

"Voyage To Mars," like its predecessor simulation, will be the space camp's concluding activity. Camp activities are designed to prepare students for their flight into simulated space. Ms. Klein said the camp's activities go beyond science to encompass a variety of interdisciplinary themes that include mathematics and oral and written communication. "These camps are a perfect fit to the sixth grade curriculum," Ms. Klein said, explaining that many camp skills are linked to Texas educational requirements.

Space camp curriculum modifications for the new mission includes student experiments with simulated Martian soil, called regolith, that was developed by NASA scientists at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"We're now focusing on making comparisons between Earth rocks and Martian meteoroids," said Challenger Center flight commander Jenny Christian. Mrs. Christian, a Northside Independent School District science teacher, donated the fake Martian dirt that she acquired while working with NASA on the "Step Up To Mars" research project in 1997.

Mrs. Christian also helped design a prototype biomedical station "glove box" that will be used for the first time during the space camps. These new glove box experiments, including crystal and bacteria formation in space, replaces the medical station experiments used at the Challenger Center space station during the "Rendezvous with a Comet" scenario. A dozen biomedical station glove boxes will be used during the camps.

While many space camp activities haven't changed, one of the two new camp coordinators has a Brooks-based connection to early NASA research.

Neesie Beal, a retired teacher, continues her mother's American space program legacy as a space camp volunteer. "Her mom is Edna Bitter who created the space suit for SAM the monkey," said Ms. Klein. Beal's



Photo by Rudy Purificato

'Camp Challenger' space enthusiasts at Brooks will be participating in a new space camp program this summer called 'Voyage To Mars.'

mother made history in the late 1950s when her husband Lou, an Air Force scientist at Brooks, asked her to design a "monkey suit" for America's first space primate. The monkey, whose name was an acronym for School of Aerospace Medicine, survived its historic space flight in a suit Ms. Bitter made from an ironing board cover.

"The kids we're working with now, potentially, could be some of the ones who will explore Mars," said Mrs. Christian, referring to students who will be nearing middle age when America launches its first manned planetary expedition.

Brooks spouses pampered during Appreciation Day

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They came expecting to be thanked. What they came away with was a totally pampered experience that would have made TV commercial icon Morris the Cat envious.

The Brooks Family Support Center-hosted inaugural "Pamper the Spouse Day" on May 14 at Hangar 9 provided base leaders an opportunity to tangibly show their gratitude to spouses whose support has enabled their family members to fulfill Department of Defense missions.

"President (Ronald) Reagan started it in 1984. It's to thank you for everything you do," said Sally Travis, wife of 311th Human Systems Wing commander Col. Tom Travis. Brooks inaugurated its event on the 20th anniversary of National Spouse Appreciation Day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Mrs. Sally Travis, wife of 311th Human Systems Wing commander Col. Tom Travis, opened Spouse Appreciation Day with a speech thanking spouses for everything they do.

"We wanted to recognize the contributions made by Brooks spouses. Col. Travis has wanted to have something (to thank them) for quite awhile," said Lucy Belles, Family Support Center director. Ms. Belles and LaWanda Roper, Family Support Center coordinator of the event, were among key planners.

The Family Support Center director's initiative to develop a new tradition here is based on her having previously organized a Pampered Spouse Day in 2002 at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. She credited the cooperation and support of many organizations that contributed to the event's success.

Participants were pampered by a total of nine vendors who offered massages, manicures, facials, skin consultations, brow waxing, make-up sessions, and tips on floral design and cake decorating.

The venue also showcased several hands-on classes that included vegetable sushi making conducted by Lt. Col. Susan Davis, 311th Mission Support Group; cake decorating and floral design by Jennifer Zowie and Lynell Choate, respectively, from Michael's Arts & Crafts; rubber stamping techniques by Mrs. Travis of the Brooks Spouses Club; cake decorating by Carol Hughes and Filipino cooking by Ms. Belles.

Thirty two civilian and military organizations/businesses either donated door prizes or contributed services and products for the event. The Brooks Heritage Foundation provided the event site.

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Joann Socash from the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence prepares to hike up Mount Kilimanjaro.

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The Brooks women's varsity softball team takes infield in preparation for a home game.

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Space camp registration



call 531-9767



Secretary, Chief send Memorial Day Message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — “This Memorial Day beckons us once again to remember and reflect on the selfless sacrifices of members of America’s armed forces.

“While stories abound on the origins of the Memorial Day observance, one aspect remains abundantly clear – since it was first proclaimed officially in May 1868, Americans continue to enthusiastically honor the enormous sacrifices of all the service men and women who have paid the ultimate price for freedom, as well as thanking those who serve today.

“As the war on terror continues, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our Airmen and their families. This year, we are more thankful than ever for your noble service, around the world and at home stations. America is forever indebted to you and your families for your commitment to the high calling of defending our nation.

“We encourage you to join us Monday at 3 p.m. local time to observe the National Mo-

ment of Remembrance as America honors those who have served so honorably and bravely as uniformed members of the armed forces. A White House resolution in 2000 designated the National Moment of Remembrance as an opportunity for all Americans to commemorate the true meaning of Memorial Day by observing one minute of silence, driving with their headlights on or participating in another appropriate activity honoring our fallen veterans.

“We thank you for what you do every day for America and America’s Air Force. You and your families are among our nation’s greatest treasures and we are honored to serve with you.

“May God bless you and your service, and may God continue to bless America.”

Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force
Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff

CMSAF delivers Memorial Day message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — “In our nation’s capital, we memorialize American patriots who have fought and died for our country throughout history — the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the newest addition, the National World War II Memorial, which will be dedicated on our National Mall on May 29.

“In small towns and big cities around our nation this Memorial Day, Americans will gather around flagpoles and in cemeteries to remember the bravery of their neighbors, friends and family members who have laid down their lives so that we may continue to fly the flag of freedom.

“Our generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Airmen shares a bond with warriors of generations past. We, like them, understand in a personal way the unfortunate truth that there are times when blood must be spilled in order for peace to be secured. We, like them, know that the ultimate sacrifice may be required in order to defeat the darkness that threatens our way of life.

“This Memorial Day, as America remembers the courage and commitment of heroes who died in service to our nation, we owe it to each of them to continue the fight for which they gave their lives, thus ensuring that America remains the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray

DPS wants Memorial Day drivers to slow down, use seatbelts

AUSTIN — DPS is reminding drivers to obey the speed limit, drive sober and always make sure all passengers and drivers are properly secured, especially during the Memorial Day weekend.

“Remember to designate a sober driver, and make sure that everyone in the vehicle is wearing a seat belt or buckled into the appropriate child safety seat,” said Col. Thomas Davis Jr., director of the DPS. “Taking these simple steps will help ensure everyone’s safety.”

DPS troopers and many other police agencies are increasing patrols over the weekend to stop drunk drivers, speeders and seat belt violators. Through a statewide campaign, Click It or Ticket, DPS and the Texas Depart-

ment of Transportation are urging motorists to buckle up or face a fine. Other police agencies throughout Texas are also focusing their efforts on enforcing the state’s occupant protection laws for adults and children.

Another nationwide effort designed to reduce fatalities is the C.A.R.E. -- Combined Accident Reduction Effort -- program. State police officers across the nation participate in C.A.R.E., maximizing enforcement on major interstate highways to reduce fatalities commonly associated with holiday weekends.

Statistically, the deadliest time on the road during Memorial Day weekend is between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., a time frame when alcohol and fatigue often are cited as factors.



The Discovery is published by Prime Time Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks City-Base, Texas.

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the Discovery should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The Discovery is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the Discovery, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

Discovery Editorial Staff:
311th Human Systems Wing Commander
Col. Tom Travis
Director of Public Affairs
Larry Farlow
Editor
2nd Lt. John Chattaway
(john.chattaway@brooks.af.mil)
Staff Writer
Steve VanWert
Photography
Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder
Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.
Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart
Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



Sylvia Black, Publisher
Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.
Brandy Davis, Account Exec.
Gabriel Lira, Account Exec.
Henry Perez, Account Exec.
Cindy Stratouly, Account Exec.

Advertising
(210) 675-4500
FAX:
(210) 675-4577
E-mail:
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Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



Risk management, clear thinking key to having a safe summer

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE (AFMCNS) — Losing 66 Air Force people to private motor vehicle and seven to non-traffic-related accidents in 2003 prompted officials here to implement the most aggressive 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign in recent history.

In a letter to field organizations, Gen. Gregory Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, said everyone, regardless of rank, age, sex or position, must be more aware of increased safety during the upcoming season where outdoor and recreational mishaps tend to rise.

"This is the time when we need to place extra emphasis on good decision making and taking the responsibility for the personal well-being of our families and ourselves," General Martin said. "We must make safety awareness a part of our everyday lives - on and off duty."

The general said people must make sure they and their family members use seat belts, helmets, lifejackets and other protective equipment all the time when doing related activities. Additionally, he said emphasizing alcohol awareness and its impact on AFMC members in a recreational set-

ting, not drinking and driving and using designated drivers is a paramount need.

The 101 Critical Days campaign begins Memorial Day and goes through Labor Day in September. It is, according to Col. Craig Wolfenbarger, AFMC safety director, the time where carelessness and fun-loving times sometimes takes control over careful thinking and gets people hurt or killed.

Looking closely at the causes for the 71 lost souls in 2003, the colonel said, "People simply aren't taking the time to think of the risks involved in the things they're doing. We've had cars and motorcycles in this country for a long time and people have been running into things for that same amount of time. Seems like we haven't learned much over the years, and we're paying a high price to learn the same old lessons."

To help wrestle this problem and see fewer people die due to recklessness, John Sheehan, AFMC ground safety chief, encourages people to use risk management techniques and think about what might happen in any given situation and what their reaction might be.

"Exercising risk management in everything we do, on and off duty is the key to enjoying safe activities," Sheehan said. "We do a pretty good job with on-duty mishaps and fatalities because we have more control over how people conduct business. But people need to put those same ideals into practice with off-duty activities because the off-duty stuff can kill you just as dead as the on-duty things can."

Sheehan said if people apply the six steps of risk management, they can be reasonably assured there will be no surprises.

The six steps he referred to are: Identifying hazards associated with a particular activity; assessing the impact each hazard has in relation to potential loss and severity; determining controls necessary to reduce or eliminate the hazards; making decisions as to accepting, avoiding or controlling the risk; following through to make sure appropriate controls are used; and monitoring the situation and adjusting as necessary to keep things under control.

Take driving a vehicle for example, he said, citing that two- and four-wheeled vehicles join forces to account for more than 80 percent of fatalities in the 2003 101 Critical Days season. Using risk management techniques, an individual would first consider the hazards such as road conditions, traffic, impaired drivers, wildlife in the area and any unseen situations. The individual should also take into consideration his or her experience in driving their particular kind of vehicle and in whatever particular conditions.

After assessing the risk and analyzing the control measures, that individual might want to check the weather and drive accordingly; listen to local radio stations for road conditions; and travel outside peak-travel times, he said.

"Taking your time in unfamiliar areas and on gravel, slick roads and curves never hurts either," he said.

Sheehan also suggests keeping road rage caged; not drinking and driving; driving defensively and being cautious on unfamiliar roads. Checking into alternate methods of traveling and taking spare parts and tools on extended trips can help travelers be prepared for the unexpected.

Everyone, including supervisors and managers, needs to continue strong interaction with their co-workers and encourage each other to emphasize safety throughout the 101 Critical Days of Summer, both in on- and off-duty activities, Mr. Sheehan said.

"This is the time of year where more activities are happening and therefore the risk of mishaps happening increase," he said. "With increased awareness and people taking the time to think about what might happen in any given situation, we can continue minimizing our mishaps and fatalities and bring our people back home safely."

General Martin agreed saying, "Everyone in this command is a valuable and needed member of our team. Let's use ORM to help us make smart decisions, for ourselves, for our families and for our friends. Our goal is to continue preserving the lives of our AFMC family by preventing mishaps."



Singleton wins SecAF SBO honor

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

Carol Singleton, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, is the winner of one of four fiscal 2003 Secretary of the Air Force Small and Disadvantaged Business Awards. She won in the Outstanding Contribution to the Small Business Program by a Contracting Individual category.

Ms. Singleton, who is the senior advisor for the Design-Build Plus 03 Source Selection and Acquisition Contracting Director at AFCEE, was nominated by Mary Urey, director of the Brooks Small Business Office.

"Ms. Singleton successfully opened the door for 8(a) contractors to compete in an arena that has successfully been all large business. The market research and acquisition planning was thorough and the entire AFCEE teams knows this is going to be a success story for our 8(a) firms," Ms. Urey said.

Ms. Singleton served as the senior advisor for a major military family housing construction acquisition program currently valued at \$2.5 billion, with growth potential to \$6.25 billion using a unique "term ceiling" arrangement. Her effective and efficient leadership contributed significantly to the success of the timely award of 15 Construction Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity contracts.

She was responsible for pioneering the first-ever competitive 8(a) set-aside source selection for an AFCEE military family housing construction program.

The solicitation developed by Ms. Singleton contained a unique joint-venture provision, allowing



Singleton

small businesses to team with large firms, thereby allowing AFCEE to make direct small business awards while retaining the experience and capacity of the joint-venture.

"When I received the email notification from Tony Landers (director of the Air Force Materiel Command Small Business office), it really took me by surprise," said Ms. Singleton. "It is a great honor to be recognized at the Secretary level for the hard work and many extra hours spent on such an important program to my customer, AFCEE. Even though it was an individual award, I had great support from my team members and could not have been successful without their support."

The award will be formally presented to Ms. Singleton June 1 in the Executive Dining Room in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Mr. Peter Teets, under-secretary of the Air Force, will host the ceremony.

Brooks fetes Asian Pacific heritage with cultural fare

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Human Systems Wing capped its month-long celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage this week with an authentic Hawaiian luau spiced by cultural entertainment that showcased some of the contributions made by the more than 13 million Americans who are of Asian and Pacific islander descent.

The Air Force has annually commemorated Asian Pacific Heritage throughout May since President George H.W. Bush signed Public Law 102-45 in 1992 extending the annual celebration to a month-long observance. The national observance was first created in 1979 when President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution that established the first Asian Pacific Heritage Week that was celebrated in May.

"It is important to bring awareness to the whole (Brooks) community about the diversity of the people on base who contribute to the Air Force mission," said Tech Sgt. Anita Schroeder, a Brooks Asian Pacific Heritage Month Committee member. Master Sgt. Miranda Hill, committee chairperson from the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, said the committee's focus this year was education and awareness.

This year's theme, "Freedom For All – A Nation We Call Our Own," underscores significant contri-



Photo by Tech Sgt. Anita Schroeder

This Asian Pacific Heritage display at Brooks showcases artifacts that represent the cultural diversity of Air Force personnel stationed here. Artifacts from about 20 nations have been exhibited on base during the month-long commemoration.

butions and sacrifices made by this ethnic group. President George W. Bush said in an official proclamation, "America is strengthened by the rich cultural diversity of our people. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community – love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in edu-

cation and community service – have strengthened us as a nation. We celebrate the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and recognize their ingenuity, perseverance and achievement."

Among prominent Asian Pacific-Americans who in recent years have been recognized nationally for their work and sacrifices are the late Challenger astronaut Ellison Onizuka and Columbia astronaut Kalpana Chawia, and Seattle architect Noro Yamasaki who designed New York's World Trade Center towers.

"We all look different on the outside, but we're all the same on the inside," said Sergeant Schroeder, who has instilled in her children that belief.

Sergeant Schroeder, 311th HSW Multimedia Center photography NCOIC, contributed to the commemoration for the second consecutive year by organizing cultural exhibits. "The displays represent between 15-20 countries," she said, of artifacts that were exhibited May 19 and May 26 at Sidney's and at the luau. Japanese swords, Chinese dolls and Asian Pacific literature were among the many items that Brooks personnel loaned for the exhibition.

Other Brooks-supported activities included Asian Pacific Heritage storytelling at the Child Development Center and cooking classes featuring Asian Pacific cuisine at the Family Support Center.



Brooks nominees win Nunn-Perry Awards

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

Four teams nominated by the Brooks Small Business Office recently won annual DoD Mentor-Protégé Nunn-Perry Awards. Air Force teams won four of 10 awards that acknowledge outstanding effort made by mentor-protégé teams participating in the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé program.

The teams were Tetra Tech Inc. and EMAssist, The Boeing Company and Precision Machine and Manufacturing, AMEC Earth and Environmental Inc. and Zambrana Engineering Inc., and Shaw Environmental Inc. and Advent Environmental Inc.

The DoD Mentor-Protégé Program was enacted in 1990 under the direction of former Sen. Sam Nunn and Secretary of Defense William Perry. It was established to provide incentives for DoD prime contractors (mentors) to help small disadvantaged businesses, organizations that employ the severely disabled and woman-owned business (protégés). The goal of the program is to assist protégés to successfully compete for prime contract and sub-contract awards. The Air Force Mentor Protégé Program is run entirely

out of the Brooks Small Business Office.

Tetra Tech transferred valuable pollution prevention technical skills to EMAssist. This team arrangement resulted in a 25-to-1 return on investment.

The Boeing/Precision Machine and Manufacturing partnership resulted in a 146-to-1 return on investment. Teamwork enabled an efficient technology transfer in concert with the necessary training and certifications required to implement new technology.

Shaw Environmental/Advent Environmental had a 49-to-1 return on investment, impressive under trying circumstances. The mentor, formerly IT Inc., filed for bankruptcy during the agreement period and was bought by Shaw International. Despite the resultant trauma to all team members, the team pulled together and made a huge success of this program.

AMEC/Zambrana is a successful Air Force Mentor Protégé team. After 9/11, AMEC recognized that by providing support to Zambrana, the long-term vision to build alternative energy market business would be met. The partnership has resulted in a 56-to-1 return on investment.

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more information

AFCEE awards 22 contracts in support of small business

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

The Small Business Office at Brooks announced that 16 small businesses were recently awarded contracts as a result of the Worldwide Environmental Remediation and Construction source selection. The source selection for WERC services was valued at \$4 billion, with the potential to grow to \$10 billion, for performing services for the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, located at Brooks. Out of that \$4 billion, \$532 million is reserved exclusively for small businesses.

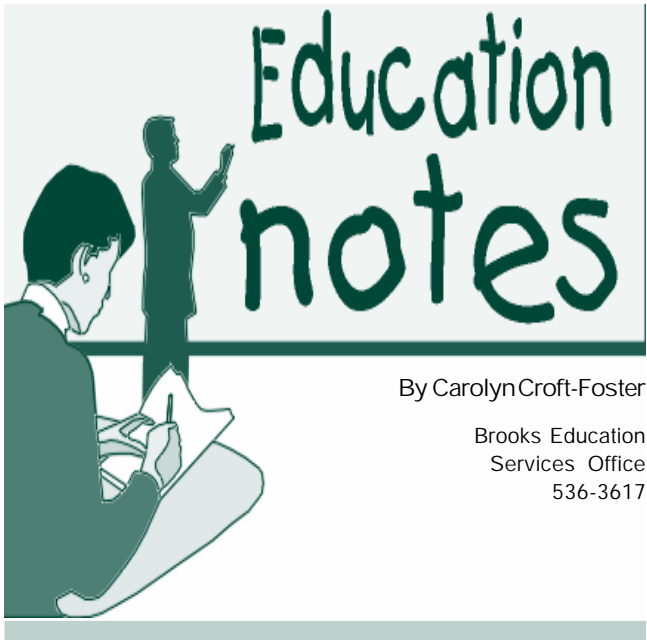
Presently, two of the WERC contractors are doing work in Iraq, with the possibility of two more working in Iraq in the near future.

The Brooks SBO also announced that six small businesses were recently awarded contracts as a result of the Design Build Plus 03 source selection. The source selection was a combined effort of a \$2.5 billion full and open competition

and a \$400 million set-aside competition. The \$2.5 billion has the potential to grow to \$6.25 billion, while the \$400 million has the potential to grow to \$1 billion. These contracts are also in support of AFCEE with the predominate work being to build subdivisions on Air Force bases, demolition services, and new buildings or renovations.

“One key to success for these small businesses was their early involvement,” said Mary Urey, director of the Brooks SBO. “Many of these small businesses familiarized themselves with the process and requirements and made crucial decisions early on. Postings on AFCEE’s website were easily accessible to not only prime contractors, but to potential teaming members as well. Contractors could find other businesses that had shown an interest in the source selection, which allowed for networking between the contractors. Large businesses could also look for small and disadvantaged businesses or woman-owned subcontractors to team with.”

Buckle Up!



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

CLEP eCBT paper-based testing on-base

CLEP General and a limited number of CLEP Subject exams have returned to the DANTES Test Centers. These exams include the following 14 titles: General English, Social Sciences and History, Natural Sciences, Humanities, College Mathematics, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, History of the United States I, History of the United States II, Information Systems and Computer Applications, Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology, and Principles of Management. All examinees must wait 180 days to retest on exams previously administered.

Unfunded civilians enrolled in on-base education programs are authorized space-available testing at a DANTES Test Center, however, testing opportunities are limited. The fee has been increased and

is now \$120 at DANTES Testing Centers for unfunded civilians. There are no authorized administrations of DANTES-funded paper-based CLEP eCBT tests for Defense Acquisition Workforce University personnel. They must be referred to a National Test Center for DANTES-funded testing. CLEP eCBT funded testing of Reserve Components and Coast Guard spouses and civilians is no longer authorized at active duty Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine DANTES Test Centers or at National Test Centers operating under an memorandum of understanding with an active duty installation.

Upper Iowa On-Base

There is still time to register for Upper Iowa University-Brooks Summer. The term runs June 1-July 23. Register now for Complex Organizations, Business Communications or State and Local Government for the June term. UIU offers on-base Public Administration, Business, Social Science and Human Service bachelor's degrees. Courses are also available online and via External Degree. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. The coordinator also holds advising hours at Lackland on Thursdays. For more information, stop by the Brooks office in bldg. 558 or call 536-4033.

Funding of CLEP exams at National Test Centers

DANTES is now providing up-front funding of the CLEP eCBT examination fee at identified National Test Centers (colleges and universities.) DANTES will fund the current \$50 test fee for eligible military and civilian examinees on-campus. Examinees are responsible for paying the non-refundable, advance registration fee charged by the test center, in some cases, this registration fee (usually \$20) is reimbursable. Students may test only at schools identified as "Military Friendly" or "Open".

In the San Antonio area these schools include: Northwest Vista, St. Mary's University, San Antonio College, UTSA, Our Lady of the Lake, and the University of the Incarnate Word. Visit the website www.collegeboard.com/clep for additional listings in other areas. For more information call Education Services at 536-3617.

Palo Alto on-base

Enrollment is underway for the Summer Term with Palo Alto College and the Alamo Community College District. On-base classes will include English, History and Ethics. All are applicable to Community College of the Air Force. The Palo Alto representative visits Brooks City-Base on Tuesday mornings. Please call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 536-3618.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now on-line. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. For more information call 536-3617.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BX Market.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Sponsor training

June 15, 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored in the past year. Others are more than welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Basic investing

June 16, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The kind of future you and your family will have depends on the decision you make today. This seminar prepares the begining investor by concentrating on basic investment terms and the six fundamental investment principles. Make the right decision by attending this investment workshop now.

Smooth move

June 8, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—

PCSing? Hear briefings from the traffic management office, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The seminar is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

PCS overseas

June 8, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges. Learn more about your overseas PCS by staying after Smooth move for this class.

Transition assistance

June 22-24, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

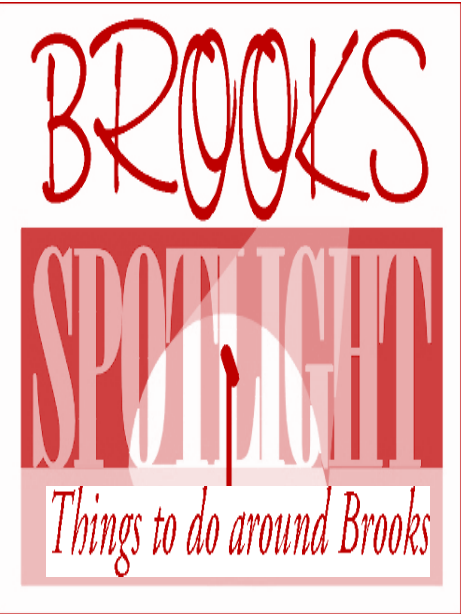
Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, appropriate dress, veteran's benefits and more. Members should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement or separation. Spouses are welcome to attend.

To register for class or for more information, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444 or toll free number 877-747-5938.

VA benefits assistance

Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782
Calling all steak lovers. Join the staff for You “B” The Cook Steak Night on June 9 and 23. Cook your steak just the way you like it from 4 to 7 p.m. \$7.50 will purchase your steak plus potatoes and a veggie.

Youth Services Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515
There is still time to sign-up for Summer Day Camp. Registrations will be accepted until all spaces are filled. Children 5 through 12 years of age are eligible to attend.
Registrations are still being accepted for toddler through teen swim lessons. Classes will be given in two week sessions, Monday through Thursday, and begin in June. The cost

is \$18 per session. Toddlers must be out of diapers to participate.
Registrations for the Barracuda Swim Team for girls and boys, 7-16 years of age, are being accepted. We are looking at being part of the Palo Alto Summer League. The cost is \$35 for Youth Center members and \$50 for nonmembers.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634
There is always something new in your library. Whether it's the daily newspaper, the arrival of the new issue of your favorite weekly or monthly magazine or the small sample of the never ending stream of new books, hardback, paperback, CD or cassette, highlighted in this bulletin, the flow of information never ends. As if that were not enough, you have access to library collections worldwide through the Interlibrary Loan System. Those of you who have never set foot inside our facility are invited to stop by and see for yourself.
A photocopier is available for your use. Copies are 10 cents each.

Family Child Care

Bldg. 1154, 536-2041
Stay at home spouses are needed to care for:
— Children through 12 years of age
— Children with special needs
Stay at home spouses are needed to become:
— Accredited, trained professional family child care providers
Stay at home spouses are needed to offer:
— Shift care
— Extended day care
— Temporary Duty care
— Permanent Change of Station and volunteer care

For more information please contact Jeanie Smith, Family Child Care Coordinator.

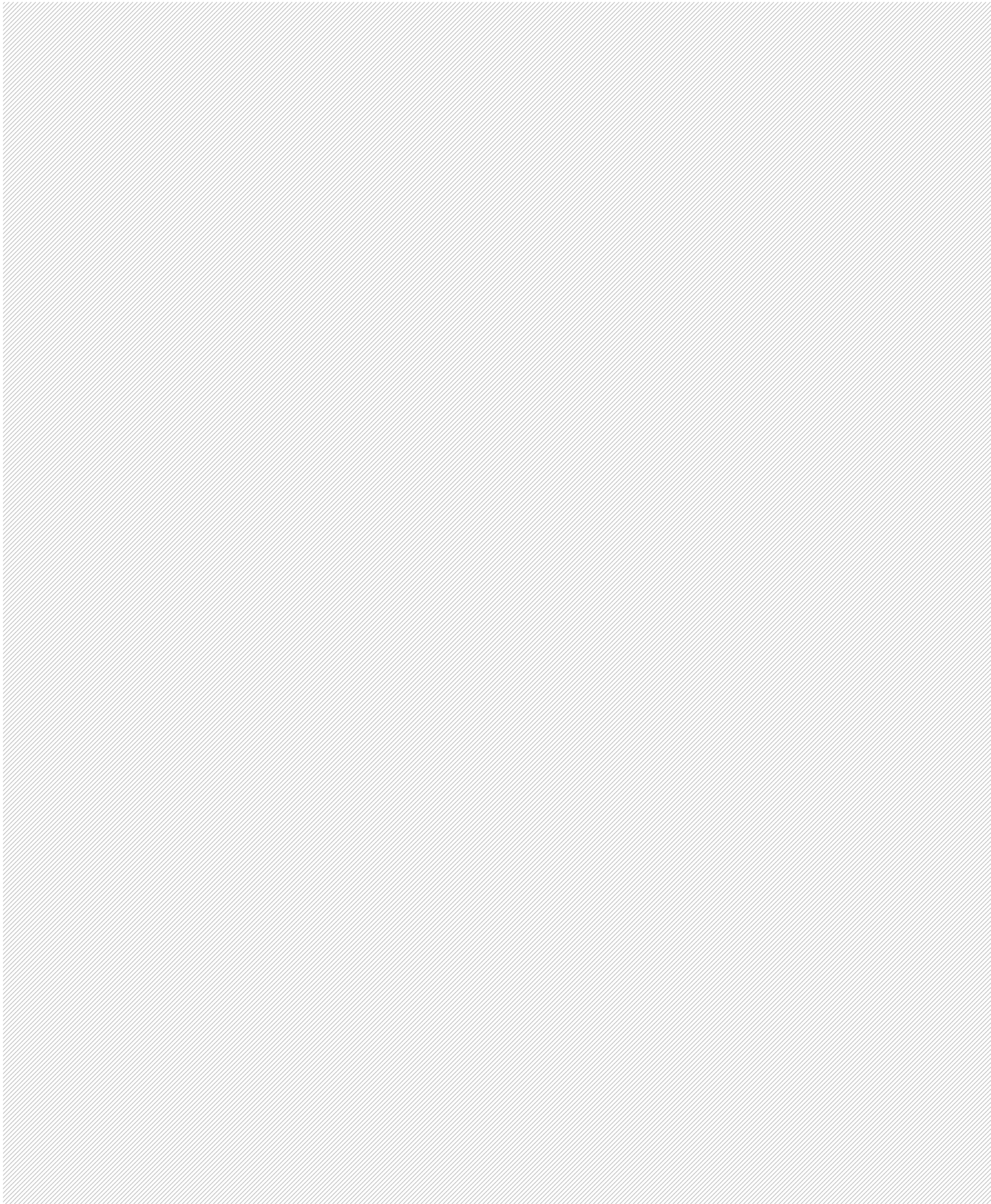
Health & Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188
The Brooks City-Base Swimming Pool opens for the 2004 season May 29. Season passes are \$10 per pass and the daily user fee is \$1.50 per person. Passes may be purchased from the Health and Fitness Center. Once the pool opens they can be purchased at the pool. Pool parties can be scheduled through the head life guard. Hours of operation will be:
— Sunrise Swim-Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays — 6:15-7:15 a.m.
— Adult Swim-Mondays-Fridays — 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
— Open Swim-Mondays-Fridays — 1-7 p.m.
— Open Swim-Saturdays-Sundays — 1-6 p.m.
Swim lessons for toddlers through teens can be scheduled at the Youth Services Center. Contact the center staff at 536-2515 or stop by bldg. 470 to register or for more information.

2004 Bringing Families and Community Together

Annual Base Picnic/Summer Bash
Tops in Blue will bring you one full hour of entertainment at the annual Summer Bash Picnic immediately following the Opening Ceremony at 11 a.m. Tops in Blue is composed of many talented military members so the program is sure to be a crowd pleaser. There will be 33 performers and the program will consist of patriotic and country songs. Enjoy top-notch entertainment along with great food and beverages. The following foods and beverages will be sold by organizations during the picnic.

Foods:
MSG/SVS – Chalupas
MSG/LG - Hot Dogs
CGOC – Hamburgers
HSW/YA - Shish kabobs/Chicken sandwiches
AFRL Top 4 - Sausage/Tortilla Wrap
NCO Council – Candy
AFCEE/OD- Cake/Toy Walk, BJ's - Fruit Cups
AFIOH- Turkey legs
USAFSAM - Sno Cones
Top III - Ice cream
HSW/FM - Frito Pie
MDC/UAC – Popcorn/Nachos
AACA - Sliced watermelon
UAMRD – Fajitas/ Tacos
JMI Foods - Funnel cakes/Veggie Hoagies/Beer biscuits, barbecue - barbecue ribs/ brisket
4 Stars Construction - Peanut Brittle/barbecue beef ribs.
Beverages:
MSG/MDF - Bottled water
68th IOS – Lemonade
MSG/SVMP – Sodas
BJ's - Iced tea
USAMRD – Gatorade
JMI Foods – Kool-Aid.
Games:
AFSA - Dart game
68 IOS - Dunking booth
HSW/FM - Football toss
USAMRD - Face painting
HSW/YA - Gold fish game
Airmen's Council – Moonwalk
SVS - Water maze/Obstacle course/
Assorted children's games
Other activities include a petting zoo, pony rides, buffalo soldiers mini museum and campsite, Goldie the Clown, San Antonio Classic T-Bird Club antique car display, plus a “surprise” NBA player autograph and photo session.
Entertainment includes Tops In Blue, Goodtimes Band, Blues Crafters Band, DJ- Marvin Lee, Hula Hulau Ohana Elikapeka, plus more.





NEWS briefs

Dental screenings available

The Pediatric Dental Department at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, is providing drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries. One morning each month pediatric dentists will see children 14 years of age or younger at the Sky Lark Community Center, Bldg. 6576. Screenings will be done from 8-11 a.m. in the Longhorn Room on the first floor. No appointment is necessary.

Children will receive a dental screening exam, an opinion about your child's dental condition and appropriate treatment recommendations or alternatives.

Parents should bring a copy of their child's treatment plan, or referral letter from their private dentist.

The next drop-in screening clinic will be June 9. Contact Col. Jeff Mabry at 671-3327, or Staff Sgt. Shannon Hale at 671-4072, for more information.

Do you know your rights?

Did you know you have the right to file an Inspector General complaint without fear of reprisal? First, verify the facts and give your chain of command a chance to handle the problem. Experience has shown that supervisors, first sergeants and com-

manders can solve most problems. However, if they are not able to help you, you can contact the IG staff for IG-related issues.

As the "eyes and ears" of the commander, the IG welcomes your comments, legitimate problems or wrongdoings. The IG Complaints Program helps you, as well as commanders, prevent, detect and correct fraud, waste and abuse, mismanagement and abuse of authority.

The IG not only assists you but protects you, so don't feel intimidated or fear reprisal. Anonymous complaints are welcomed but not encouraged. Getting factual information is difficult if evidence, dates, witnesses, etc., are not provided.

The 311th Human Systems Wing IG staff is located in Bldg. 150, Rooms 123 and 125. The phone number is 536-2358 and fax number is 536-3409.

We stand ready to serve as our motto is "Problem Solving and Prevention."

FDIC alert

The FDIC has issued a Special Alert regarding complaints from consumers that have received emails appearing to have been sent by the FDIC. The emails indicate that the FDIC has collaborated with credit card provid-

ers to provide a new service for those who wish to secure their credit cards against fraud and to be part of a secure online transaction network. The e-mail claims that, by accessing the embedded link, the recipient can get a free trial membership that provides coupons for discounts at some of the more popular online retail outlets.

Golf tournament

Reserve your place now for the 2004 Brooks Fiesta Golf Tournament, June 4, at the Brooks Golf Course. Show time is 11 a.m., with the tournament starting at 11:30 a.m. Cost to enter is \$25 per person, which includes, greens fee, cart, and hot dog lunch. Participants can purchase mulligans the day of the tournament. Prizes will be given to first, second and third place teams. To register, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life is just around the corner. Hundreds are expected to attend this fun-filled, overnight community event to raise funds for continued cancer research, honor those who are cancer survivors, and remember those who have lost their struggle with this deadly disease.

Shortly after sunset, hundreds of luminara will light the perimeter of the track in remembrance. The event will symbolize the hope and perseverance with which those involved will continue to fight. Honorary guests will kick off Relay for Life with the cancer survivor's lap beginning at 7 p.m.

Relay for Life is a 12-hour event where participating teams of 10 will spend the night engaged in a relay race. Each team is required to have one member of their group walking or running the track throughout the night. The Mays Family YMCA will provide the backdrop for this all-night camp out which will include games and activities to keep the participants active and entertained through the night.

The North Central Relay for Life will take place June 4-5 from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at the Mays Family YMCA located at 21654 Blanco Road. Registration for the event will include a \$25 fee with a registration deadline at 7 p.m., June 4. There will be no cost for the participation of cancer survivors; however those interested in participating should register by contacting the local office. Everyone in the community is encouraged to participate in

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NEWS briefs continued

what will prove to be a very special and family-friendly event. Planned activities are as follows:

— June 4, 7 p.m., Opening ceremonies survivorship celebration

— June 4, 9:30 p.m., Luminara ceremony

— June 5, 7 a.m. Closing ceremony

Local sponsors exclusive to this neighborhood event include: Chick-fil-A, Compass Bank, Toy Factory, Outback Steakhouse, in addition to overall Relay sponsors, Coca-Cola, Home Depot, Valero, and general advertising and donations from Time Warner Cable, News 9, Express-News, Prime Time Newspapers, Alamo Quarry Market, Quest Diagnostics, and the Texas Cancer Clinic.

For 15 years now, Relay for Life has been bringing together millions of people to raise money to help prevent cancer and raise awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient support. The American Cancer Society is the largest source of nonprofit, nongovernmental cancer research funding in the US, investing about \$130 million each year. Please join in the fight to help prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from the disease.

For more information about the American Cancer Society or to register for the upcoming North Central Relay for Life Event, contact Michelle Noel at 210-497-5586 or visit www.cancer.org.

Watersaving workshop

The San Antonio Botanical Garden and San Antonio Water System have teamed up to provide watersaver gardening workshops for both the beginner and experienced gardener. Each workshop will feature presentations by garden and landscape experts discussing ways to create and maintain colorful landscapes that can be maintained in the south Texas environment. Participants in the workshop will learn how to reduce their water use through smart plant selection and efficient irrigation.

— June 5, Garden and Landscape Design, 10 a.m. – noon

Discover new ways to design your garden or landscape for year-round color and visual appeal with San Antonio Botanical Garden horticulturist Steve Lowe.

— June 30, Native Plants for Difficult Areas, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Join San Antonio Botanical Garden Interim Director Paul Cox for a discussion of hardy plants for difficult garden areas such as shady spots and poor soil conditions.

— July 10, Water Wise Irrigation for Lawn and Garden 9 a.m. – noon

Learn how to keep your lawn, garden, and container plants looking their best with low-water use irrigation and watering techniques.

— July 14, Gardening for Wildlife, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife as Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist Judit Green shows you how to “Wildscape” your yard.

— July 24, Summer Gardening 10 a.m. – noon

San Antonio Botanical Garden staff will present tips for plant selection and maintenance techniques that will help your garden thrive in the summer.

Cost is a \$5 materials fee for each workshop. Registration in advance is requested.

All workshops will be held at the San Antonio Botanical Garden located at 555 Funston at North New Braunfels.

Contact Siri Lindholm, education director, at 207-3270 or

slindholm@sabot.org for more information and registration.

Officer Promotion Board Announcement

FY05A Air Force Reserve Colonel Central Selection Boards are scheduled to convene Oct. 18 at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center. Eligibility requirements can be found at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/promo/arpcm/cy04.htm>, or by contacting your Military Personnel Flight, Career Enhancement Element, at DSN 240-3326 or 240-6978.

Category N (Nurse Corps):

— Junior officer IPZ eligible – Lt. Col. Robin Ortega

— Senior officer IPZ eligible – Lt. Col. Sheralyn Wright

Category A (Line officer):

— Junior officer IPZ eligible – Lt. Col. Brent Mossbarger

— Senior officer IPZ eligible – Lt. Col. Edward Henson

Clinic hours

The Brooks clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily to better accommodate patients. Call 536-1847 for an appointment or 536-2087 for more information.



101 Critical Days of Summer Safety

By Senior Master Sgt Michael Walljasper
311th HSW/CCEA

Memorial Day begins the 101 Critical Days of summer. Statistics show more accident related injury and death occur within this time. The safety representatives at Brooks City-Base want all our Airmen to be healthy and fit-to-fight. Here are some tips on preventing back injuries through proper lifting techniques

In 2002, workers injured their backs more frequently than any other body part, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Perhaps we need to remember the Air Force program on ORM when it comes to preventing these injuries.

First, assess the situation before lifting or carrying a heavy object. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Can you lift this load safely, or is it a two-person lift?
- How far will you have to carry the load?
- Is the path clear of clutter, cords, slippery areas, overhangs, stairs, curbs or uneven surfaces?
- Will you encounter closed doors? If so, ask someone to hold the door open, or place a wedge under the door to keep it open.
- Once the load is lifted, will it block your view? Will you be able to see over the top of the load?
- Can the load be disassembled, carried in pieces and then reassembled?
- Should you wear any personal protective equipment, such as gloves or safety shoes? The proper gloves can improve your grip as well as protect your hands.

Once you have assessed the situation, you need to:

- Size up the load. Test the weight by lifting a corner of the object. If it is too heavy or if the object is an odd shape, stop.
- If there is any doubt, ask for help. Two or three lifting a heavy object is safer than trying to do it yourself.
- Use a hand truck, pushcart or mechanical lifting device
- Never lift anything unless you are sure you can do it safely using proper lifting techniques.
- Avoid overloading.
- Stretch out or warm up your back to increase circulation.

Here are some helpful lifting techniques:

- When lifting, always keep your back straight or slightly arched. Let your legs do the lifting. Your leg muscles are powerful; the muscle bundles

- in the legs are each 8 to 10 inches or more in diameter, compared with the very thin 1/4- to 1/2-inch layer of muscles along the back.
- Start by placing your feet close to the load. Get firm footing.
- Center your body over your feet.
- Tighten your stomach muscles.
- Squat down like a weightlifter, bending your knees and keeping your back straight or slightly arched.
- Grasp the load securely with your hands, and pull the load close to you. The farther the load is from your body, the heavier it will feel.
- Smoothly lift straight up. Never twist your body while lifting. Keep your head up, and look straight ahead, not down.

Next, remember these tips as you carry the load:

- Continue to keep your back straight or slightly arched.
 - Walk slowly and surely.
 - Shift your feet to change directions. Never twist your back. Twisting puts a grinding, compressive weight on the cartilage in the spine; repeated frequently enough, the action can cause cartilage failure.
 - Avoid leaning forward or backwards.
 - Avoid lifting over your head.
 - If you become tired, set the load down and rest for a few minutes.
- While setting the load down, remember to:
- Position yourself where you want the load.
 - Squat down and let your legs do the work.
 - Remember not to twist your body while setting down a load, and keep your head up.
 - Once the load is where you want it, release your grip. Never release your grip until the load is secure.

When using a hand truck or pushcart, remember:

- It is easier and safer to push than to pull.
- Stay close to the load, try not to lean over and keep your back straight and arched.
- Use both hands to control the hand truck or cart.
- Use tie-downs, if necessary, to secure the load.
- Avoid stairs and inclines. Use the freight elevator if available.

If an object is too heavy to lift or carry with a hand truck, use a forklift. Never attempt to operate a forklift or other lifting equipment unless you have been trained and authorized by your organization to do so.

What's a Base of Preference?

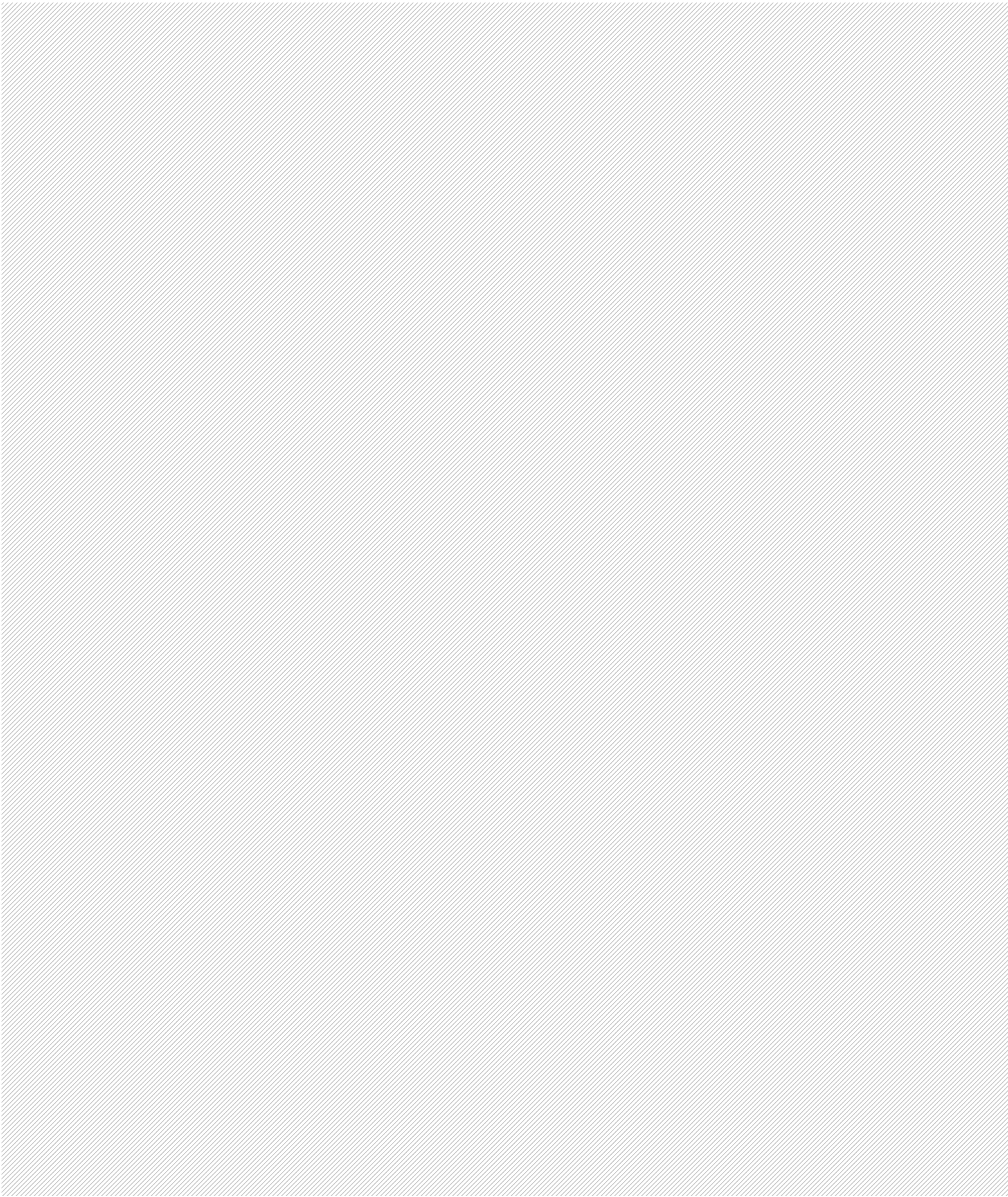
By Senior Master Sgt Michael Walljasper
311th HSW/CCEA

The Base of Preference program offers outstanding assignment opportunities, and affects both first-term and career Airmen. The first-term Airman BOP program is a reenlistment incentive under the Career Airman Reenlistment Reservation System

Retraining Program. In conjunction with reenlistment or retraining, FTA may request a BOP. FTA assigned to Brooks can request a CONUS to CONUS permanent change of station or elect for an in-place BOP, which would keep you at Brooks for another tour. BOP is not authorized from CONUS to overseas. Career Airmen may request an in-place or a CONUS to CONUS BOP under the following guidelines.

Career Airmen must have 41 months time-on-station at the time of application, and at least 48 months

before PCS departure. In order for Career Airmen to qualify for either an in-place or CONUS to CONUS BOP, they must not already be selected for PCS or have an assignment selection date. Additionally, career Airmen must not be an overseas volunteer or have any other voluntary applications pending, and applicants must be eligible for PCS without waivers. Each request will be considered according to Air Force needs. For more information, contact Relocations at 536-3091 or Master Sgt. Walljasper at 536-5528.





Feature



Photo by Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

The 9-11 bombings affected the life of Senior Airman Mark Harewood, pharmacy technician at the 311th Medical Squadron, in a unique way. Airman Harewood was on a 10-year waiting list to become an American citizen, with three more years to wait. Soon after 9-11, President Bush removed the waiting period for those on active duty in the U.S. military, and Airman Harewood was able to gain his citizenship earlier than he thought.

"I took advantage of that," he said. "It was a quick finish to a long journey."

He initially applied for citizenship not long after he and his family immigrated from Arima, Trinidad, during the summer of 1994. Born in April 1978, he had graduated from the British system of schooling, but had to attend two years of American high school to catch up on differences in the two systems. He graduated from John Marshall High School in Richmond, Va., in 1996 and enrolled in Virginia State University, majoring in chemistry. He also signed up for the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"I wanted to be an officer," he said, "but in my final semester of college, I was told my green card was not enough and I had to be an American citizen."

He was told there was a five-to-10-year wait for processing. Worse than that, without the citizenship, he couldn't qualify for the Army commission.

"I still had a degree in chemistry, so I thought I'd be able to get a job and wait," he said.

But he soon found that work in his degree area was hard to find because of his lack of actual work experience. After working at a temporary agency, packing printers for Hewlett Packard, and then nine months at a credit card agency, he was discouraged. While surfing the Internet, he came across the Air Force website, left his contact information and was called by the local recruiter the next day.

"He was good," said Airman Harewood. "By this time, I was looking to learn a new skill and gain valuable work experience, hopefully in something that had to do with my degree."

He enlisted in early 2001, graduated from basic training and attended

technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. From there he was assigned to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB. While there, he learned a lot.

"It was all on-the-job training," he said. "I learned more there than I did in class. I experienced the hands-on aspect of pharmacy, then had the opportunity to get experience in other clinics, as well."

He spent a couple of years at Tinker AFB, Okla., where he learned how to handle the narcotic inventory, supply, logistics and acquisition. But the Tinker hospital was so large, he longed for someplace smaller, with more intimate relationships with patients.

Brooks, short staffed in the base pharmacy, was requesting volunteers to work here. Airman Harewood did so and soon found himself as a member of the 311th MDS.

"I really like it here," he said. "Col. (Tom) Hayes (311th MDS commander) has been a big help to me from day one. He embraced me immediately. He's a helpful, charismatic guy."

There are others who have helped him at Brooks.

"Staff Sgt. (Isaac) Reynaga, my supervisor, goes out of his way to help me and give me advice. He really knows his job. I learn a lot from him. (Tech. Sgt.) Chris Horne also knows a lot about the Air Force. He's been a good mentor for me, as has (Tech. Sgt.) Rafael Pena, who works over in dental. He's helped me find things to do when I first PCS'd here. And Capt. (Kevin) McCaughin knows a lot about a lot. He's down-to-earth and a real asset to my pharmacy experience."

The airman recently was the most junior member of the spring Community College of the Air Force graduating class and also just completed his WAPS testing. He can now concentrate on further education and another attempt at that commission.

"I'd like to cross train into either bioenvironmental engineering or radiology in case the commission thing doesn't work out," he said.

Whether or not he gains his commission will determine whether or not he remains on active duty.

"I like the military," he said. "I like the structure and the discipline. I even like wearing the uniform everyday."

His eventual return to civilian life will see him in an educational forum.

"I'd like to become a teacher, and then later a principal," he said. "I have lots of ideas on how to fix things in schools. I could bring a lot to the table."

If that doesn't work out, he can always fall back on his past.

"My grandfather in Trinidad is looking for someone to manage his real estate," Airman Harewood said.

But this airman isn't all about work. He has a personal life, as well. Still single, he hasn't found the right life mate yet.

"I'm working on it," he said. "But I'm not ready for the commitment yet - maybe when I'm around 30 years old."

In the meantime, he keeps busy listening to an eclectic mix of music.

"I like Reggae, R&B and soca," he said. Soca? "It's like calypso, but more danceable." But he doesn't listen to just Bob Marley. He's also a heavy metal fan. "It gets my blood pumping," he said. "I play it when I'm working out."

Airman Harewood can also be found rooting for the Los Angeles Lakers, particularly Shaquille O'Neal. He also liked the Bulls "when they were the 'Bulls'." In baseball, he follows the Yankees. "My mom and my brothers and my sister live in New York," he said. Growing up in Trinidad gave him access to some sports not all that popular in the states. "I still like to watch cricket," he said, "And I follow the World Cup soccer tournament."

And there's wrestling. "I love The Rock, Triple H, The Undertaker and Stone Cold Steve Austin," he said. "My apartment is full of wrestling photos and posters and cards. I also have a Kung Fu collection that includes many Jet Li and Gordon Liu movies."

He's recently found a local church, the New Creation Christian Fellowship Center, that fulfills his religious needs.

"It's modern and has a message I can relate to," he said.

Now that he has his citizenship, Airman Harewood realizes the importance of his commitment. He knows that he may be called upon to be deployed and defend his new country.

"I realized when I enlisted that I may have to be deployed," he said. "I said I'd fulfill my duty to the best of my ability and if that means defending America overseas, then that's just what I'm going to do."

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



From Trinidad to Texas



Harewood



FULL NAME:
Senior Airman Mark Harewood

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Pharmacy Technician, 311th Medical Squadron

IN SIMPLE TERMS, WHAT I DO?:
Deal drugs for "The Man"... to include translating, typing and filling prescriptions few "non-chicken scratch" readers could understand. I am also the supply and narcotic vault technician.

BIRTHDAY:
Apr. 22, 1978

HOMETOWN:
Originally from Arima, Trinidad, but came into the military from Richmond, Va.

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:
Trini or Johnny Black

FAMILY STATUS:
Oldest of five; I have four brothers and one sister, all in New York

PERSONAL MOTTO:
"If knowledge is power, then a god am I!"
- Jim Carrey, as The Riddler

PET PEEVES:
Girls thinking men should be psychic

INSPIRATIONS:
Soulful music and polite old people inspire me

HOBBIES:
Soccer, cricket, playing violent video games, web surfing and downloading "stuff"

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:
Was my CDCs and PFE, but now fiction/adventure books by David Gemmel

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
Be commissioned in the Air Force and be almost ready to start a family.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
I want to either work for the EPA or be a college professor or school principal when I leave the Air Force.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Reggae, soca, R&B, and anything by System of a Down (heavy metal)

I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:
I figured I could get some good job training in a field related to my major.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:
A blown up black and white picture of my Grandparents when they were my age.



PROFILES IN TIME

Brooks 'space woman' views manned Mars mission as the ultimate flight

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Jenny Christian doesn't focus on the Earthly gender gap identified in the bestseller "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus." She is more inclined to believe that an inseparable bond would develop between the sexes when future space explorers colonize the Red Planet.

This Challenger Learning Center educator/flight director is thrilled by the prospect of inter-planetary travel that President Bush proposed in January involving a manned expedition to Mars after the year 2020. Having worked at NASA on a Martian research project, she knows about the complexity of such an undertaking.

"Finding water on Mars eliminates one problem. It could be used to produce oxygen. If we find gases in the (Martian) soil that are like those found on Earth we can produce fuel," said Mrs. Christian, referring to a possible solution to reducing a spacecraft's payload. She feels that the Martian robot probes "Spirit" and "Opportunity" literally 'scratched the surface' when they relayed data back to Earth that water exists there.

"It's one thing to hear about water found on another planet. Having been involved in the research to find it

made it very personal to me when I heard it was discovered on Mars," confessed Mrs. Christian. This Northside Independent School District science teacher, who has a master's degree in space science, was just one of 13 teachers selected from 27,000 who applied in 1997 to work at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"We tested the Martian meteorite ALH84001, found in the early 1990s in Antarctica, to see if it showed any signs of life," she recalled of her work during the "Step Up To Mars" project. NASA researchers used electron microscopes to probe the Martian meteorite. They were initially looking for evidence of water, a medium where life possibly could have evolved.

Mrs. Christian's evolution as a student of science began several years after her birth 32 years ago in Austin, Texas. "I really hated sci-

ence when I was growing up. I never had any (practical) exposure to science except for astronomy. My father was an avid amateur astronomer. I developed my love of space science from him," she said.

During her first teaching job at a middle school in San Benito, Texas, Mrs. Christian discovered her true calling. "My principal asked me if I was interested in applying for the NASA project," she said. She joined NASA during the space agency's Mars Surveyor Program, highlighted by the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft's successful launch of the robotic rover Sojourner to the Martian surface on July 4, 1997.

Describing the event in a research paper she authored called "The Mars Exploration Program," Mrs. Christian said, "This mission completed both long-range and close-up imaging of the surface, providing a more thorough description of the Martian environment. Not only did this project gain invaluable information about the Red Planet, (but) Mars Pathfinder also successfully tested new lander and rover technologies."



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Jenny Christian, Challenger Learning Center flight commander, identifies an area on a globe model of Mars that will be further studied by NASA scientists and Brooks space camp participants.

Public fascination with Mars began during the 19th century when astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli discovered the Martian canals. By the early 1950s, science fiction writers had significantly increased public interest in the Red Planet. Their unscientific view of a planet inhabited by all sorts of alien monsters led to film industry exploitation that continues to exist.

Mrs. Christian's interest in Mars and space science began in earnest during her NASA tour. "If I had been exposed early in life to information about what these (NASA) scientists do, it would have changed my career path," she admits. As a Pat Neff Middle School

science teacher on loan as an educator/flight director to the Challenger Learning Center since June 2002, Mrs. Christian has advocated space science education. "It is imperative we get educators to tell kids, no matter what their academic or personal background, that there is a job for them in space."

Mrs. Christian is so passionate about space science that she applied for the "Teacher in Space" program. While her poor eyesight spiked her chance of becoming an astronaut, she is hopeful of becoming a space research scientist.

She views the annual space camps at Brooks as an excellent opportunity to



Photo courtesy of NASA

Jenny Christian with a NASA employee who is modeling a spacesuit prototype for a manned mission to Mars. Mrs. Christian worked at NASA on the 'Step Up to Mars' research program.

ends today, she is content in knowing she contributed to student interest in space, and in particular, Mars. Martian regolith, simulated soil developed at NASA, is among the artifacts that Mrs. Christian has donated to the Brooks Aerospace Foundation. The fake Martian dirt will be used in a series of space camps featuring the "Voyage to Mars" scenario.

Mrs. Christian's colleague, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director Shelia Klein, noted, "This summer America celebrates the 35th anniversary of the first moon landing. Thirty five years from now, students who are learning about Mars today may be scientists, engineers and astronauts. They are the future of America's space program."



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Simulated Martian soil called regolith, developed by NASA scientists, is used at the Johnson Space Center in Houston in research studies that contribute to the space agency's plans for a manned mission to Mars.



TRICARE Standard allows civilian care

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — People covered by the TRICARE Standard military health care plan no longer need approval from their military treatment facility to seek inpatient care at civilian hospitals.

The need to get a nonavailability statement before seeking civilian inpatient care expired Dec. 28 under a provision of the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. A nonavailability statement indicates that care is not available from the military facility and authorizes care at a civilian facility.

An exception in the law continues the requirement for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to get a nonavailability statement before seeking nonemergency inpatient mental health care services. However, officials said, this applies only to beneficiaries who use TRICARE Standard or Extra, who are not Medicare eli-

gible, and who have no other health insurance that is primary to TRICARE. Department of Defense officials do not require preauthorization for TRICARE beneficiary inpatient mental health care when Medicare is the primary payer.

“With this change in policy, beneficiaries now have the freedom to choose a military treatment facility or a civilian facility, without any extra paperwork,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. “However, I urge TRICARE beneficiaries to still look to the military health system as their first choice for health care because I believe the services we offer are second to none.”

A military treatment facility may request a departmental waiver of the new policy in certain specific, but limited, circumstances. But those requests do not apply to maternity ser-

vices, unless the affected beneficiary began her first prenatal visit before Dec. 28, officials said.

Any military treatment facility granted a waiver must publish a notice in the Federal Register that a nonavailability statement is required for a certain procedure. Officials at the treatment facility, the services and the TRICARE Management Activity will notify the affected beneficiaries if this occurs, officials said. Maternity patients should check with their local military treatment facility to compare maternity services there with those available in civilian facilities, said Military Health System officials.

A recently implemented “Family-Centered Care” program offers enhanced services and recognizes the unique needs of military families in today’s climate of increasing deployments and high operations tempo, officials said. Beneficiaries can review

the enhanced military treatment facility maternity services online and with their military medical care provider.

Beneficiaries can check the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil if they are seeking an inpatient service and want to know if their nearby military treatment facility applied for a nonavailability statement waiver. They also may contact the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator or health benefits adviser at their nearest treatment facility, officials said.

Before seeking care at a civilian facility, military health system officials urge beneficiaries to check with their nearby military treatment facility to compare services and ask questions. Even if the facility could not provide the needed services in the past, the facility’s staffing levels or capabilities may have changed, and they might now be available, officials said.

TRICARE travels with you

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — This time of year many families will be taking vacations or transferring to another assignment. For whatever reason you leave home, TRICARE can help with your health care needs while you’re on the road.

For urgent but non-emergency conditions while traveling, TRICARE Prime beneficiaries must receive authorization from a Health Care Finder before receiving care. If a prior authorization for urgent care is not received from the HCF when seeing a civilian provider, you will be billed under the point-of-service option. This means you will pay a higher cost-share and deductible. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries do not need a prior authorization but must pay any applicable cost-shares and deductibles. Routine care outside of your normal service area is not a TRICARE benefit.

An emergency is a medical or psychiatric condition that would lead an average, non-medical per-

son to believe that lack of immediate medical attention would threaten life, limb or sight. Emergency care is also appropriate to relieve severe pain or suffering. If you are confronted with an emergency while traveling call 911, or seek immediate care at the nearest hospital emergency room. Emergency services do not require preauthorization. If your emergency results in a hospital admission and you are a TRICARE Prime beneficiary, you or a family member must contact the HCF (available 24/7) within 24 hours, or as soon as medically possible. Prime beneficiaries should follow up with their Primary Care Manager after any emergency care.

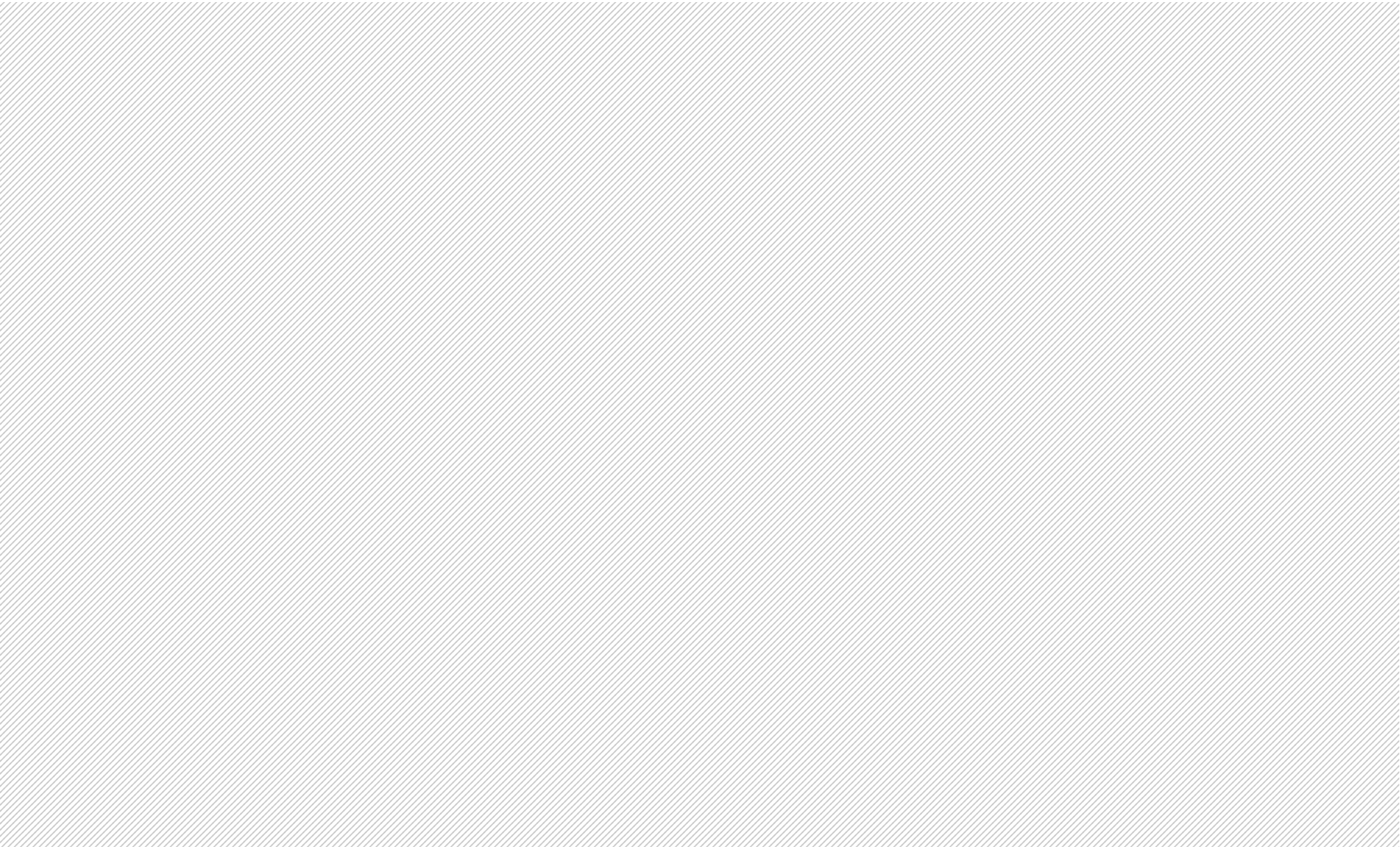
If you need prescription medication when traveling within your region, pay only the copayment by using a network pharmacy.

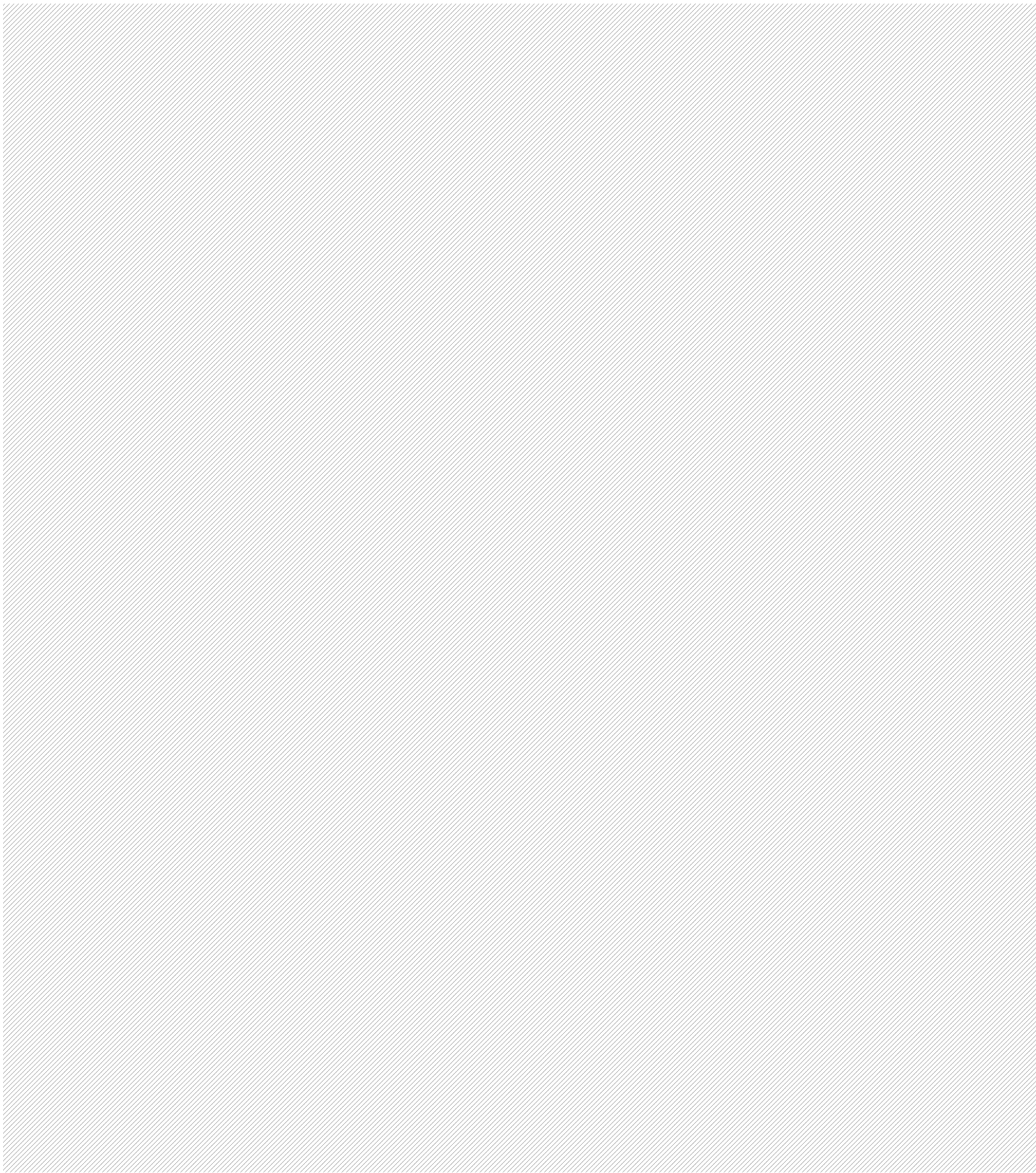
When traveling outside your TRICARE region, you will need to pay the entire amount and seek reimbursement from TRICARE when you return home,

so hold on to your receipts. You can obtain a claim form by visiting www.TRICARE.osd.mil/claims.

Better yet, use the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy before you leave home. Through the TMOP you can receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications. For additional information, call TMOP at (866) 363-8667, or visit www.express-scripts.com.

- Some helpful travel tips:
- Always carry your military identification card.
 - Contact an HCF at (800) 406-2832, they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TRICARE eligible beneficiaries can call a HCF for assistance in locating TRICARE approved providers in the area.
 - Prime beneficiaries should keep their PCM’s telephone number with them, should follow-up care be necessary. Your TRICARE Prime ID card has space provided to write in your PCM’s name and phone number.
- For further information, contact a customer service representative at (800) 406-2832, or visit www.hnfs.net.







Reaching the snows of Kilimanjaro



Courtesy Photo

A view of the majestic Kilimanjaro and the permanent blanket of snow that covers its summit.

By Gil Dominguez
AFCEE Public Affairs

One of the most famous quotes of all time is the answer George Leigh Mallory gave when asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain: "Because it's there," he said.

The same question can be posed to Joann Socash, who recently went up the highest mountain in Africa, Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro.

"You see the world in a different way," is her explanation for the 19,300-foot hike up to the peak and the other adventures she has undertaken in the past four years.

The Kilimanjaro adventure involved a trek around the mountain and then an ascent up to the summit – a 45-mile, six-and-a-half day journey.

Socash, an Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence contractor associate, belongs to a group that every year heads off to a new adventure.

"One of my friends in Virginia originated the idea (of hiking up the mountain)," she said. "Basically, each year we vote on a concept that someone in the group has come up with, something very special that someone has always dreamed of doing."

This time it was hiking up to the snows of Kilimanjaro.

"We all jumped in and did it together," said Socash, who is a geologist by training. "Everybody wanted to do it. It was going to be that or some place in the Himalayas, but that may come around next year."

The group, which includes couples from Texas, Michigan, Virginia and Washington, D.C., began their journeys four years ago. The members know each other socially or met in college and thought it would be fun to do things together.

Their first adventure was hiking the Inca Trail up to the ancient Incan fortress of Machu Picchu in Peru. Socash has also walked from rim to rim of the Grand Canyon twice.

But Kilimanjaro presented a different type of challenge. The mountain is one of the Seven Summits –

the highest peaks of the seven continents, which includes the 29,000-foot Everest in Nepal.

Kilimanjaro – Swahili for "shining mountain" – is made up of three extinct volcanoes.

Socash readily admits, however, that Kilimanjaro is probably the least demanding of the Seven Summits.

"There is very, very little climbing involved," she said. "It's a hike. And it's not even that much of a distance. From the main gate where we started to the gate where we got on the bus to leave it was only 45 miles."

Of course, for coach potatoes, 45 miles is an extremely long distance. But Kilimanjaro does present some challenges to even experienced hikers like Socash.

She said that the toughest part of the trek is the 1,500-foot section called the Barranco Wall, "where you are actually using your hands and feet to scramble up."

But probably the most challenging aspect of the trek is the thin air at the higher altitudes.

"The real difficulty was that you were basically going from an elevation of about 4,000 feet to 19,300 feet in the span of a few days," said Socash. "So it really came down to whether or not your body could tolerate the oxygen deficiency."

"Six of the seven in the group made it. One person – who historically had problems with altitude – didn't. Another almost got carried up, but she made it."

Socash herself experienced some vision and coordination problems.

"We spent the two days before (reaching the summit) hiking in rain and cold, and I came down with a cold," she said. "That probably made my climb a little bit more difficult. And I could have tried going a little bit slower."

The weather was another challenge. The landscape and climate changed at every level of the climb, going from equatorial jungle to arctic conditions with permanent snow and below-freezing temperatures near the summit.

"You spend your days walking through clouds," recalled Socash. "A cloud drifts through and you might not see anything beyond four feet. And

then it clears up suddenly and you can see several hundred yards.

"For the two days preceding the summit it rained. The day we (got to the summit) it changed from freezing rain to sleet, and then it snowed. We had a couple of days when the temperatures didn't get above 40 degrees."

The hikers carried only a small backpack containing light snacks, emergency gear and at least three liters of water.

The area that includes Kilimanjaro is in a national park, but it doesn't contain the facilities that people have come to expect in a park in the United States. The campgrounds where Socash and her fellow adventurers pitched their tents are little more than areas cleared away on the sides of the mountain. And there is no electrical power or running water.

"You make a significant commitment going out because there are no facilities, and you don't realize how tough it is," said Socash. "We went seven days without a shower."

The final lap of the hike was the ascent to the summit, which started a half hour before midnight on the previous day. Summit day started with a temperature of 28 degree Fahrenheit and just went down from there as the hikers reached the higher altitudes, battling a stiff wind all the way up.

"It's completely dark when you start, and the only thing you have is your headlamp, so all you can see is a little bit of a patch in front or the person who's right in front of you," said Socash.

"Probably the most surreal thing is having the light from your lantern catch off of your sleeve and you realize that your sleeve and the rest of your body are encased in ice."

"I was probably wearing five layers in my upper body and four layers on my lower; and each was set for venting so I could open or close as needed. I was actually quite nice and warm and comfortable on the hike up. I didn't know until I got down that the temperature had been 15 degrees at the peak."

Some members of the group made it to the summit in about six and a half hours, which Socash said is very good time. She and two others got there in a respectable seven and a half hours.

Most people reach the summit at between six and ten hours, Socash said.



Socash

Finally at the top, she said she felt a feeling of freedom combined with achievement and wonder.

"There was a very narrow window of absolute beauty before the clouds rolled in," she said. "The view and the scale were tremendous. The mountain is huge, and you know that you're standing on the edge, the highest part of what is the rim of a volcano crater. You look across and it's so far that you can't see the other side. You feel at once a huge feeling of achievement for getting up that far, but then you feel so very tiny as you look out and realize how much more there is."

At 8 a.m., after being at the summit less than an hour, Socash started back down. Hikers aren't allowed to stay up there too long because of the very thin air, she said.

"It was a wonderful time, but I can't say that I'm going to do it again anytime soon," Socash said with a laugh.

She added that last November an 85-year-old man had made the trek up Kilimanjaro.

"If I could do even half that at 65 I would be happy," Socash said.

And few would doubt that at 85 she will still be reaching summits.



Courtesy Photo

A bundled up Joann Socash stands at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro. The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence contractor employee and several of her friends made the trek last December. Mount Kilimanjaro is known as the 'shining mountain' in Swahili.



In memory of those who served

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

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solutions page 24

ACROSS

1. Part 1 of Memorial Day motto
3. Finish of 1 ACROSS
10. TV show ____ Got a Secret
11. Pass with flying colors
13. Regional site of 2 American wars
16. Outfit
17. Lascivious look
18. '70s org. that kidnapped Hearst
19. Central part of a church
20. Site of conflict 1954 to 1975
23. Greek letter
25. Smarts
26. Inactive
27. Cues
29. Bar charge
32. USAF officer promotion category
34. By way of
35. Greek god of love
36. An incline
39. Shark relative
40. Peoples of Africa
42. Ridiculous
44. Yard need
47. Caviar need
48. USAF praise in writing
50. Charged particle
51. Org. concerned with flight paths
52. American war 1917 to 1918
54. American war 1941 to 1945
57. Cast off
58. Pub brew
59. Army equivalent to EPR
60. American poet Teasdale
61. Twisted Sister Snider
62. Reboots
63. Picnic crasher

DOWN

1. Once around a track
2. Shopping binge
4. Mediterranean fruit trees
5. Plant containing embryo sac
6. Family member
7. Bloody WWII Pacific battle site
8. Obtains again?
9. Traditional fraulein garb
12. War that began Memorial Day observance
14. Inventor Whitney
15. Egyptian king
20. Person who served in fighting forces
21. "The Greatest"
22. People
24. Athletic
28. USAF rated position
30. Member Semitic people in Arabia
31. Young men
33. FL time zone
37. Writer of funny material
38. Hebrew prophet 8th century
40. Wider
41. Summer drink
43. Russian river
45. American war 1950 to 1953
46. Oklahoma town
48. Minor USAF punishment
49. Pseudonym
51. Unobstructed
52. Conflicts
53. USAF ammo dump
54. Lump
55. Bullfight cheer
56. Tiny



In memory of those who served



from page 23



Promotion ceremony for Ch Arroyo

June 1 at 2 p.m., the base is invited to attend Ch Arroyo's promotion to Major. The event will be held at the Brooks Chapel.

LifeBuilder's

The LifeBuilder's noon luncheon and program is on a summer recess until September 8.

Midweek Mass

A midweek mass is held only on Thursdays at the Brooks Chapel at 11:30 a.m. A Eucharistic service is held Monday through Wednesday in the Blessed Sacrament Room. Mass is also held each days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Religious Classes on Summer Recess

The Catholic and Protestant Religious Education and Sunday School classes will resume after a summer break. A Vacation Bible School will be held August 2-6. The 10:30 a.m. congregation has a weekly children's sermon and children's ministry.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:
11:30 a.m. — Thursday Mass
Mon. - Wed. Eucharist

Wednesdays:
Noon— Christian LifeBuilders luncheon
5:30 p.m.—Protestant choir rehearsal
6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:
9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Interdenominational Christian worship
6 p.m. — Praise and Worship service followed by a meal



Film star Wallace Beery taught Brooks Field NCOs a valuable ‘lesson’

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Academy Award-winning actor Wallace Beery's short, but profitable 1934 visit to Brooks Field wasn't so joyous to a group of NCOs whose intention of taking the Hollywood star 'for a ride' left them 'holding the bag.' Beery, the gruff character actor who won the Best Actor Oscar for his role in the 1931 boxing movie "The Champ," originally did not have Brooks on his itinerary. He had come to San Antonio to film the aviation movie "West Point of the Air" forMGM at Randolph Field. How he ended up at Brooks where he was coerced into a 'friendly confrontation' appears more far-fetched than a scene from a bad Hollywood script.



Beery

"I had read about him in the paper. My buddy Chester and I hitchhiked to Randolph Field to see him," recalls 83-year-old Aaron Reich, who at the time was a student at Nathaniel Hawthorne Junior High on Josephine Street. "On Saturdays they let the public watch the filming from the flightline," Reich remembers.

Beery was the picture's star. He played a tough, but kind-hearted Army sergeant in a movie that featured actor Robert Young, later star of TV's "Father Knows Best," and actress Rosalind Russell, who coincidentally participated in a pilot wing-pinning ceremony at Brooks Field during World War II.

While he was considered 'Hollywood royalty,' Beery did not receive a royal reception when his pilot landed the actor's plane at Randolph. Reich, who witnessed Beery's arrival, said "I saw a staff car drive up to Beery's pilot on the flightline." Reich remembers hearing the Randolph brass tell the pilot that he had 48 hours in which to

remove Beery's plane from the base. The youngster then seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "I went up to the pilot and told him that Beery was my idol." The conversation was interrupted by Beery's arrival in another staff car. "He was naturally nice, a big guy with a drawl," recalls Reich who elicited a reaction from his idol. "Who's the kid?" Beery asked his pilot. While the pair decided to fly the plane to Stinson Field, Reich chimed in, "I want to fly over there with you."

Beery, who had a soft spot for children, agreed. "I was thrilled. He put an Indian blanket over me to keep me warm," Reich said of the open cockpit monoplane.

The trip to Stinson took 20 minutes. The flight took them over Hot Wells, a swanky southside health resort where Beery's wife, actress Gloria Swanson, had frequented.

"When we got over to Stinson, Beery asked, 'Aaron, how are you getting home?'" Reich recalls. The teenager hitched a ride on a garbage truck. Reich saw Beery catch a ride in a cab, thinking the actor was head-

ing back to Randolph. While no one knows why Beery took a detour to Brooks, speculation suggests that perhaps he wanted to familiarize himself with military aviation protocol for his role as an Army sergeant in a picture about flying. He headed to a Brooks hangar in an apparent 'research' sidetrip to learn about aviation NCO behavior.

Prior to Beery's arrival here, aviation mechanic Enos Payne had developed a reputation as an able navigator. Born 100 years ago in Jackson, Mississippi in 1904, the Brooks Field NCO had a knack for airborne 'dead reckoning.'

"He joined the Army Signal Corps in 1922. His first duty station was Brooks Field," recalls his son John Payne from LaPorte, Texas. His father, who died from a heart attack in 1977, was a head mechanic. "He worked on Jennys and would ride in the front seat (of them) during cross-country flights," said his son, who visited Hangar 9 enroute to his mother's funeral at nearby Mission Burial Park. The senior Payne helped navigate when the



Photo by Rudy Purificato

John Payne shows his granddaughter and son the Hangar 9 Jenny that the his father worked on as a Brooks Field mechanic.

pilot got lost. "They'd fly low to look at signs under the eaves of buildings. Dad's job was to read the signs. They also flew over the 'Iron Mike' (railroad tracks) when they got lost."

Sergeant Payne had met Charles Lindbergh when the future aviation legend was a Brooks Field flying cadet in 1924. Ten years later his chance meeting with a legendary movie tough guy proved to be he and his buddies' downfall.

"They invited Beery to play a game of poker," Payne recalls. The sergeants did not know that Beery was a notorious gambler. Beery initially declined the offer, warning them it could cost them plenty. They insisted he play them. The actor, born on April Fool's Day in 1885, was no fool. He couldn't resist the temptation of a sure thing with a bunch of patsies. "He cleaned them out," Payne's son said.

Ironically, Beery also beat the odds of not having to pay the IRS in 1949. He died from a heart attack on April 15, the tax return filing 'deadline' which he took literally.



Courtesy Photo

Some of these Brooks Field aviators later were 'victimized' by Hollywood legend Wallace Beery during the actor's impromptu visit.



Varsity women's softball revived after four-year hiatus

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks varsity women's softball program, resurrected for at least this season, will soon make base history along with its men's team counterpart by participating for the first time in the Armed Forces World Championships in August.

For now, the squad of mostly inexperienced players are learning the fundamentals of the game from a first-year coach who is a former Air Force Materiel Command tournament All-Star.

"Roy (Conatzer, fitness center director) asked me if I wanted to put a team together. We haven't had a (women's varsity) team since 2000 when we combined with Kelly AFB," said Tech Sgt. Trish Esquivel, a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine bioengineering instructor. That combined team, including Brooks players Esquivel, Marisa Bell and Terri Scholin, won the Air Force Materiel Command championship. It was a first for this base and the last for Kelly, which closed that summer.

Sergeant Esquivel, who had played on the Brooks women's varsity team from 1996 through the squad's last season in 1998, jumped at the chance to revive the long-dormant women's program. "I accepted Roy's offer on faith, not knowing (then) about (available) talent," she admits. The women's varsity softball program ended after the 1998 season primarily because of a dwindling talent pool and a general lack of interest.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Brooks women's varsity softball squad has developed team unity under first-year coach Trish Esquivel, far right

The Brooks women's varsity coach has anchored the new team with a proven veteran and holdover from the 2000 AFMC championship squad: Tech Sgt. Marisa Bell. The southpaw pitcher from United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine had a perfect 6-0 record during the 2000 AFMC tournament. She is now the ace of the pitching rotation for the resurrected Brooks squad.

"I have a very young team. We have only four players with experience," said the coach. She said that while the squad's weakness is inexperience magnified by a lack of aggressiveness, its strength is team unity. "Everybody is willing to learn the game so they can become better players," she said.

Sergeant Esquivel recruited 14 players and began practice in March. "We were too late to sign up for the city spring league, but we are participating in the new military league," she said, referring to the newly formed San Antonio Military Softball League that includes teams from Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston. The 16-

game season, which ends in late June, will help prepare the Brooks club for the post-season tournament. "I've never been to the Armed Forces World Championship as a player or coach," Sergeant Esquivel said of the tournament that will be held Aug. 12-15 in Garland, Texas.

Besides their star pitcher, the starting team features Air Force Research Laboratory's Tech Sgt. Jane Lanford at first base; Crystal Croce, an Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence contractor sharing a second base platoon with Staff Sgt. K.C. Parks from the 311th Mission Support Group; the 311th Human Systems Wing's Maj. Karey Defour at shortstop; the 311th Communications Squadron's Airmen 1st Class Amy Bailik and Laura Konell at third base and catcher, respectively; dependent wife Andi Eden at left field; 311th HSW civilian Cynthia Fleming at left centerfield; 311th Mission Support Group's Master Sgt. Diane Miller at right centerfield; and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health's Staff Sgt. Selina Hamblin at right field.

The bench features utility player Tech Sgt. Jennifer Baugher, wife of men's varsity team player Master Sgt. Marty Baugher from AFIOH; and Senior Airman Grace Swider, assigned to the NCO Academy at Lackland AFB.

"I am focusing on the fundamentals. I want them to get used to playing. We have no unrealistic expectations. The winning will come later," Sergeant Esquivel said.

AFIOH defends title as Sports Day champ



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander is presenting the first place trophy to the team from the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Air Force Institute for Operational Health successfully defended its title as Sports Day champions May 21 by winning the 14th annual event with a team total of 42 points. The two-time champs dominated three events, winning the men's 5K run, men's racquetball and women's basketball.

AFIOH's four-point margin of victory over runners-up, the Air Force Research Laboratory, is directly attributed to the organization having amassed more participation points. AFIOH competed in 15 of the 16 events, while AFRL competed in a dozen events.

Historically, past Sports Day champions share a common formula for success: maximizing resources to compete in all or nearly every event to earn points, combined with points awarded for finishing first or second. AFRL won more events than AFIOH, but did not compete in four events.

AFRL, however, won the most events, including volleyball, women's tennis, men's basketball and the women's 100 meter dash. Hot on their heels was the 311th Mission Support Group, which finished third overall on the strength of victories in 4-on-4 flag football, men's 100 meter dash and the 4x100 relay run.

Finishing fourth overall was the 311th Human Systems Program Office which is a former Sports Day powerhouse, having been overall winners three times in the last six years. YA managed to win only one event: men's tennis.

Other organizations that won events were the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, in softball and women's racquetball; the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, in golf; and the 311th Human Systems Wing, in tug-of-war.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

311th Human Systems Wing vice commander Col. Laura Alvarado, center, helps the 311th HSW team win its only event, tug-of-war.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Staff Sgt. Suzanne 'Suzy Q' Oates, 311th Medical Squadron, sinks her putt on her first ever game of golf.

Sports Day 2004 Standings

Place	Team	Points
1	AFIOH	42
2	AFRL	38
3	MSG	33
4	YA	27
5	68IOS	21
6	USAFSAM	19
7	311 HSW	14
8	AFMSA	11
9	AFCEE	10
10	USAMRD	7
11	PK	2



2004 America's Kids Run

By Feletia S. McLaurin
311th MSG

On May 15, 9 a.m., Brooks Youth Programs in conjunction with the Fitness Center conducted the America's Kids Run. Nineteen local children eagerly participated. This event provides children 5 to 13 years of age an opportunity to participate in a fun run scheduled for military bases worldwide. The event helps to build their self-esteem and fitness in a fun, safe and secure environment as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations and May Fitness Month promotions. All runners received a t-shirt and the children with the fastest times received 2004 pool passes to the base pool. Winners: Age 5-6, Kenji Parks, Age 7-8, Grace Belcher, Age 9-13, Taylor Reynolds.

America's Kids Run, formerly Junior Bloomsday, will celebrate its 19th



Photo by Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

Age group winners Taylor Reynolds, Kenji Parks and Grace Belcher competed against 19 other children.

year as the largest children's running event worldwide through participation on military bases here and abroad.

Health & fitness

Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center or call 536-2188 for details.

Power Cycling

Power cycling is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.at the Fitness Center. Classes are free but limited seating is available for the first 12 participants to sign up for each class. Participants must bring bottled water, a towel a "can-do" attitude to begin the ride of your life. Contact the Fitness Center at 536-2188 or stop by and talk to a staff member for more information.

Fitness is the key to health